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### The situation of housing loan borrowers is improving

The Act XCVI of 2010 on the Amendments For the Purpose Of The Aiding Of Consumers In Severe Situation Due To Taking On Housing Credits was promulgated on 28 October, 2010. The aim of this statutory instrument is to improve the situation of the concerned consumers affected by the borrowing, by amending the Act CXII of 1996 on Credit Institutions and Financial Enterprises and the Act CLXII of 2009 on Credits for Consumers. The amendments establish different rules in relation to housing credit and loan agreements taken on by private persons, secured by mortgage on real estates, and to the financial leasing agreements for the acquisition of residential property.

Our detailed essay regarding this subject is available [here](#).

### “Media Constitution”

The Act CIV of 2010 on the Freedom of the Press and the General Rules on Media Contents, which has become known as the “media constitution” will enter into force on 1 January, 2011, which is planned to be the first step towards the replacement of the Act on the Press of 1986. The effect of the new act will extend to all means of the media, nevertheless it will not extend - contrary to the original proposals – to the Internet users (blog and forum writers). The fundamental rights and obligations, the human rights and moral rights are declared in relation to the media, additionally special provisions on the rights of minorities and on the protection of minors are provided for in the act. The current rules on rectification in the Civil Code will be - in principle with minor amendments - transposed into the new act: the deadlines for rectification will be specified in respect of the modern means of the media as well, furthermore with regard to newspapers, the deadline for rectification will be shortened to 5 days. The act also contains provisions on the protection of the identity of the information source. Moreover, the media content provider in certain cases will be exempted from the consequences for infringements relating to the acquisition of data in the public

### In the future there won't be need for ordering procurement procedure for legal services

Act XCIX of 2010, which has been promulgated in Nr. 166 of the Hungarian Gazette, will amend Act CXXIX of 2003 on Public Procurements in a way that in case of ordering one of the legal services listed in Annex Nr. 4 to the act, the contracting entity will not be compelled to conduct a public procurement procedure.

Since 1 April, 2009, for legal services reaching or exceeding the Community threshold, a simple procurement procedure had to be ordered, similarly to e.g. hotel, health care and educational services.

As of the promulgation of the act, 29 October 2010, - from the services enumerated in Annex Nr. 4, legal services will be exempted, as these are not subject to even a simplified procedure. Moreover, by an amendment, this preference was extended to official consultants to public contracts as well.

Furthermore, it is up to the contracting entity whether to publish the executed contract in the European Gazette, or not, nevertheless the publication in the Public Procurement Newsletter (“*Közbeszerzési Értesítő*”) will remain compulsory.

According to the explanatory notes to the amending act, the professional activities of lawyers are of confidential nature, and thus it is for the principal to choose a legal service provider directly, and it is also invoked that conducting such public procurement procedure would render the process of disposition over public funds unnecessarily slow and more difficult. Besides, the explanatory notes also emphasize that the laws of the European Union - with reference to the corresponding articles of the Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC - do not make the public procurement compulsory in respect of legal service providers, accordingly numerous Member States do not avail themselves to this option.

interest.

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